### ANCIENT AMERICA.

THE LAND AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS BEFORE COLUMBUS.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA: With Some Account of Ancient America and the Spanish Conquest. By John Fiske. In two volumes. 12mo, pp. xxxvi-515: xxi-631. Houghton, Missin & Co.

In a very intéresting preface Mr. Fiske gives some account of the purposes which shaped this work. "In order," he says, "to view in their true perspective the series of events comprised in the discovery of America, one needs to form a mental picture of that strange world of savagery and barbarism to which civilized Europeans were for the first time introduced in the course of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, in their voyages along the African coast, into the Indian and Pacific oceans, and across the Atlantic Nothing that Europeans discovered during that stirring period was so remarkable as these antique phases of human society; the mere existence of which had scarcely been suspected, and the real character of which it has been left for the present generation to begin to understand. Nowhere was this ancient society so full of instructive lessons as in aboriginal America, which had pursued its own course of development, cut off and isolated from the Old World, for probably more than fifty thousand years."

In order to understand what the discovery America really meant, it is clearly necessary to have some knowledge of the inhabitants, society, institutions and general state of progress. of the country, at the time of the discovery. Now, to accept the statements and theories of the Old World explorers and conquerors, who made and who developed the discovery, without revision and comparison, would be to perpetuate the grave errors which they fell into through ignorance; for it must never be forgotten that they themselves were little more than barbarians, almost destitute of science, and weighed down with superstition. It is, therefore, eminently desirable that our views of Ancient America should be readjusted in accordance with modern knowledge; and that, moreover, our estimates of the edge; and that, moreover, our estimates of the state of the discoverer of America?" explorers and their work should be reformed that of the discoverer of America?" Will be chapter entitled "Mundus Novus" will be upon the lines of modern geographical and historical science. Upon these principles Mr. Fiske has proceeded, with the most interesting and satisfactory results, and if at times he appears inconoclastic, attacking venerable traditions sturdily, and denying conclusions long accepted by the generality of men, he never disputes an apparently established position without giving his reasons at length, nor without making out a strong case for his own view of the circum-

The preliminary chapters deal altogether with the ancient inhabitants of America, and here the author is fully in accord with the most modern opinions. One of the most important consequences has been to resolve into fable the long-held appearance of Spanish humanity is encountere theories about supposititious high civilizations ex-Mexico and Peru have been stripped of nearly all virtues and capacities of an exceptional man, it their glamor. The fancies concerning an ancient and advanced race to whom the building of the Indian Mounds was ascribed, are dissipated. The probability that all the North American Indians were of one stock, approaches certainty. The wonders which the Spaniards of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries went in quest of, the magnificent cities and lands of gold, reports of which had as a rule, but they were faithful and reverent sons of reached them, commonly faded; when the realities were approached, into insignificance. So is it with the story of ancient America. Lewis Morgan, indeed, was, Mr. Fiske holds, unjust in his strictures upon the description of Montezuma's dinner given by the conquerors. It was quite possible and not at all improbable that the Spaniarus actually saw what they said they saw. Such luxury is not incompatible with the conditions of barbaric life. But the life of the ancient Mexicans was barbarlo, and in some respects even savage. The Peruvians at the time of the Conquest were in some particulars less advanced than the Mexicans; but they were in advance of them in amenity of manners, in humanity, and in those things which are of the essence of a higher civilization.

A fair test is human sacrifices and cannibalism. The Mexicans practised both; the Peruvians neither. At the same time the Peruvian form of keeping records and accounts by the "quipu," · system of knotted strings, was clearly behind the Artec hieroglyphics. Again, the Peruvians concludes with a sketch of the work of the two communism, it is true, but still in advance of the of confederation of powerful clans, by whom the weaker clans were controlled. To neither of these communities; however, could the term "empire" be more fitly applied than-say, to the League of the Iroquois; and in neither of them does there appear to have been any social progress. They had crystallized centuries before into the state in which they were discovered, and had they not been discovered they might have remained in that condition for centuries longer. Not many years ago it was the fashion to mourn the destruction of these so-called ancient civilizations, which were compared with those of Egypt and Babylon. We now realize that such a comparison was hope lessly wrong; and that at least one of the American pseudo-civilizations (that of Mexico), was a brutal, bloody, cruel society, the extinction of which was a distinct benefit, even though it was brought about by Spaniards little more humans than their victims.

A point upon which Mr. Fiske might have enlarged with advantage is the importance of the supernatural element in the conquest of both Mexico and Peru. Call it superstition, myth, or whatever one pleases, the fact remains clear that the handful of Spaniards engaged could never have accomplished what they did had they not been helped by the influence of those curious traditions which predicted the coming of divine personages, the description of whom corresponded singularly with the appearance of the Spaniards Because of these traditions the work of the conquerors was more than half done before they some in close contest with the natives. Thus a supernatural belief paralyred the resistance of two brave and steady peoples, and prepared the ary philosopher could not perceive in this anything more than a curious coincidence, and though Mr. Fiske has written well on myths and mythmakers, he has not attempted to deal with this particular subject.

The account of ancient America opens the way for the history of pre-Columbian exploration, in which the author dwells with judicious emphasis upon the geography of the Old World in the fourenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, in order to bring out clearly the confusion which then existed concerning the distribution of land upon the globe. That a fuller comprehension of the geographical ignorance of our ancestors is still sirable, is even to this day shown in the way people speak of the discovery of Amorica, for ex-As Mr. Fiske says, the first necessity of the case is to put entirely out of sight the modern map. If we fail to do this we are sure unconsciously to import into our discussion and impute to the men of the past, theories and views which ey could not have entertained, because they had not the knowledge. There is the phrase "New World," for example. A fertile source of confusion in regard to that phrase was the motto said to have been bestowed upon Columbus by Now it is demonstrated by Mr. Fiske quite conclusively that no such expression was used during the lifetime of Columbus, who in fact, died without the faintest idea that be discovered a new world. Neither did any in his generation imagine such a thing, and phrase was not employed until many years

Nobedy was looking for America. All the exploration of the period was directed to the discovery of a new route to Asia, and when Amersee was discovered everybody supposed it to be er no interest for the world of that time; and then it came to be realized that it was not Asia

it was looked upon merely as a barrier in the way to Asia, and the only object of the explorers who entered its navigable streams was to ascer-tain if some of these streams might not prove to be arms of the sen separating the mass of land in two, and so leading to the longed-for haven. Mr. Fiske enters into many controversies in these volnmes, but the most important and ingenious is his vindication of Americus Vespucius, whose reputation he declares to have been sacrificed by the stupidity of a commentator. This is a masterly piece of exposition, and may be said to be flaw-less in logical force and the chain of proofs. Of course the author discusses the Scandinavian or "Vinland" hypothesis, and his conclusions strike us as eminently sound. They are to the effect that the evidence for a Norse visit to America as recounted in the Saga of Erio the Red is irrefragable; but that the landing and stay at Vinland cannot be considered a discovery in any true sense.

To the objection that the Norsemen who went to Vinland certainly discovered America in a sense in which Columbus never did, it is answered that the genuineness of a discovery of a new country is tested by its consequences. Now, the work of Columbus resulted in the genesis of the United States: whereas, the occupation of Vinland resulted in absolutely nothing. As to the "Norumbega" hypothesis, which has stirred some Americans to enthusiasm, Mr. Fiske does not think the arguments of its champions deserving of serious discussion, the whole matter being so shadowy. In sketching the life and work of Columbus, to which, according to the plan and scope of this volume, accords moderate space, he maintains the view of that explorer's character which most former historians, with the notable exception of Roselly de Lorques, have taken. With the most recent for a great many faults. Of these latter we have reactionary position, that of Mr. Winsor, he cannot noted what seems to us to be the chief, and they agree. He observes: "No one can deny that certainty interfere with the development of a feel tas Casas was a keen judge of men, or that his standard of right and wrong was quite as lefty and not fewer felicities of expression. standard of right and wrong was quite as lofty as any one has reached in our own time. He had a much more intimate knowledge of Columbus than any modern historian can ever hope to acquire and he always speaks of him with warm admira tion and respect. But how could Ins Casas ever have respected the feeble, mean-spirited driveller whose portrait Mr. Winsor asks us to accept as

found both interesting and illuminative. The sketches of the Conquest of Mexico and Peru are spirited and clear. In one point alone do we find it impossible to agree with Mr. Fiske, and that is his apparent disposition to justify or apologize for the cruelty of the Spanish conquerors. Even making liberal allowance for the reality of the Spanish religious enthusiasm, the wanton and hideons cruelties of which they were guilty appear utterly inexcusable. They may be explained per haps on the hypothesis that the conquerors were no less barbarous than the conquered; but if that be answered, what becomes of the author's theory of Spanish civilization? In truth, it is not unti the life and work of Las Casas are studied that any is an admirable one, but while it illustrates the he undertook to oppose and put an end to.

Las Casas was the apostle of anti-slavery principles, and his work in Hispanicla would have been as impossible as a crusade by Garrison in South Carelina but for his ecclestastical position. The Spanish slave-holders were thorough ruffland the Church, and no one of them dated raise a hand against one of her princes. Not that Las Casa would have been daunted by the threat of martyrdom, for he had no fear in his composition. Spanish slavery in the fifteenth century, however, was so horrible that it might have stirred the blood of a less enlightened and tender-heartest man tha Los Casas. The life of a slave was of absolute! no account, since they were to be had for noth To work them to death was held economic cal, and commonly practised, and the punishments inflicted upon them were flendish, roasting to death by slow fire appearing to have been a favorite one. It was at that distant date-four hundred years ago-that the system was devised which, be queathed to the American people subsequently, be came so deep-rooted and widespread that its extinction could only be accomplished, with a feat ful expenditure of blood and treasure, a few years

ago.

This comprehensive and carefully written work and discovery. Its etamtion is remarkable, its scope great, its style admirably lucid, vigorous, anon occasion picturesque. It is a most important resume of the whole subject. It is well furnished with maps, fac-similes, etc. Founded upon original inal documents throughout, its trustworthiness is not to be doubted. It is, in short, a sterling piece of work from beginning to end.

# AN UNSATISFACTORY WORK.

MR. SWINBURNE'S TRAGEDY.

THE SISTERS. A Tragedy. By Algernon Charles swinburne. 16mo, pp. 126. Utiled Stafes Book

Mr. Swinburne's tragedy, "The Sisters," is by means an extended or elaborate composition.
'dramatis personee' number no more than six time covered is but two or three days. But the deepest emotions and the strongest passions find expression; though not, as we think, in the most satisfying way, regarded from a literary point of view Twin sisters, Anne and Mubel Dilston, love, unwittingly to one another, the same man, Reginald Clavering, a young Waterloo hero. Anne, perceiving that Reginald loves Mabel but is afraid to let his passion be known to her, kinstoneh as he is a poor soldier and she a rich helvess, opens the eyes of her sister, and with some difficulty convinces her that she must speak to Reginald herself. This Mabel does, and she and Reginald reveal themselves to one another. Meanwhile Mabel imagines that Anne is in love with Frank Dilston, her cousin; but Anne, after her self-sacrifice begins to reulize that she has undertaken a burden to beavy for ber. She cannot endure the sight of her sister's happiness. She is unable to refrain from mal ing little bling remarks, which convince Mabel that she is not happy, though she has no suspicion of the

ing, at the country house where all are staying, of an interlude written by Reginald. The motive is fealousy; the scene, mediaeval Italy. One woman be another, her adopted sister, in the play, and the de nonement is nearly as sanguinery as that of "Hamlet, one person only being left alive when the curtain fulls. Now it imppens that Anne has borrowed from an old collection of quality fashloned flasks in a chemical laboratory in the house, one which had formerly belonged to an assortment of polaous prethe common supposition proves to be a mistake. The day after the play Mabel and Reginald come upon Arme sitting moody and secluded, and to her hand they notice the curious antique flask which had been used as a stage property on the previous evening.

Mabel asks her sister to let her look at it. Anne refuses at first, but presently yields. Mahel admires the color of the liquid, opens the flask, and finds the odor fragrant. She is about to taste it when Anne interposes and utters a vague warning; but, as before, tents. She in her turn passes it to Reginald, Anne loolding on in a kind of stopor. Then she tells the death-stricken lovers what they have done.

She had intended to kill herself alone. The in-

sidious suggestions of the play working upon her distracted mind naturally inclined her to take advantage of the opportunity thrown, as it were, into her hands by the innecent curiosity of her rival. But why should she have made no effort to save Reginald, whom she loved, and for whose sake she had stooped to murder her twin-sister! Jenious women have frequently committed crimes upon their rivals, but surely the instances are few in which such women have been willing to whelm the object of their love in a common ruin with the hated rival. Did Mr. Swinburne possibly intend to suggest that after poison. ing Mabel, Anne was seized with so much compunction as might allew Reginald to accompany his bride to the place beyond the grave? A calculating and thoroughly selfish woman would have been apt to think that, with Mabel out of the way by a catastropho which might easily be made to annear accidental, all

what was really in her mind-or in the mind of the author.

But this proceeds, in all probability, from the hurry and precipitation which pervades the tragedy, action throughout is too crowded. Time is permitted for development. Another effect of this apparent haste is to impart a sense of sketchness to the play; to suggest an ontline draft rather than a finished picture. A common fault with modern dramas is an excess of detail, and critics find fault with this as padding. But Mr. Swinburns has failen into the very opposite defect; he has not given his characters flesh and blood enough to hide their bones. The introductory matter is so brief—the central motive is brought on so swiftly—that one has not oppercharacter of the sisters. That of Anne, indeed, suffers so violent a change that, when one reflects, it is difficult to conceive the identity of the Anne of the first scenes with the Anne of the fast. Could a girl capable of so noble a renunciation yield, in a few hours, to an ugly passion like jealousy to such an extent as to make a murderess of her! This is a question which goes to the very heart of the ps; chological problem involved, and it involves some thing almost amounting to an indictment of Mr Swinburne's sidli in dramatizing human life.

No complaint can lie against the general strength of the situations in "The Sisters," though it may be considered by some that the last scene is too strong The love-making between Mabel and Reginald is very tender and graceful. The post's diction throughout is restrained, felicitous and sufficiently dignified, if, perhaps, we include the interlude, while it must be extravagant tendencies of a very young man. really exquisite song at the opening of the interinde-"Love and Sorrow Met in May." That would afon

## GOOD WOMEN IN A BAD AGE. SOME CHARMING BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES

LEADING WOMEN OF THE RESTORATION.

Portraits. By Grace John London: Digby, Long & Co. The author of these biographical studies was as she tells us, moved to undertake them by the laudable desire of showing that during the most dissolute times of the Stuarts there were women at Court who led blameless Christian lives and whose influence and example were pure and elevating. The women selected as illustrations are Lady Russell, Lady Warwick, Lady Maynard, Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Godolphin. Of these five the life of the first is by far the most moving, since it centres upon a tragedy which has stirred the hearts of Englishmen everywhere. The fate of Lord William Russell is perhaps the most flagrant example of Stuart tyranny in history, efforts to save her husband can never be forgot Apart from their relations to the turbulent polities of the time, the lives of this husband and wife deserve to be studied, for a happier union has never been recorded, and under all circumstances both behaved with the poblest firmness and the greatest dignity.

William Russell and his wife Rachel led an ideal married life, as their correspondence, freely cited by Miss Johnstone, sufficiently indicates As Charles II, became more high-handed, and his determination to suppress the liberties of Englishmen more apparent, Lord Russell, whose spirit non Sydney, entered more and more broadly into politics on the side of constitutional government was exposed by the malevolence with which they pursue! him to the end. Ludy Russell did all them. Evidently they could not sleep soundly while so resolute and so popular a patriot as William Russell lived. In such haste were his enemies to be rid of them that they refused the netty erace of a reprieve from Saturday until Monthe request being made that the condemned upon her feelings, and Lord Russell, who had never expected anything from his wife's efforts on his behalf, though he would not check he arder, met death with a lofty calm and resignation, the account of which is not the least mov ing episode in the tragedy. Lady Russell survived her husband many years, bringing up and marrying the children, living a saint-like life, and dying at last beloved by all who knew her.

Of Mary Rich, Countess of Warwick, there i not much to tell beyond the common trials and vicissitudes of life. She married a man who was a marter to the gout-if it is permissible to call any one a martyr to self-indulgence-and who, having a naturally bad temper, gave his wife many unpleasant hours. This she seems to have borne with exemplary patience, and she was also unaffectedly pious. She had a deeper sorrow in after life. losing her only son; in whom all her hopes centred. This cruel blow, however, did not sour her disposition, and she continued to fill the part of a Christian woman and a great lady with a sweetness and consistency not often encountered, and least of all in such a period

Why Margaret, Lady Maynard, should be given a place in this catalogue of leading women of the Restoration, we scarcely understend. Miss Johnstone can find very little to say of her, and her blography may be summed up in the single remark that she was plous, but common-

Lucy Hutchinson, the next on the list, merits and receives a much longer study. It must, however, be said that she does not belong here, having had, as Miss Johnstone frankly acknowledges, nothing to do with the Court of Charles II. Her time was that of the First Charles and the Commonwealth. Her reminiscences were of Cavaliers and Roundheads; of the stormy scenes of the Civil War; of the defence of Nottingham Castle; of Cromwell and his Ironsides. It is a stirring and picturesque story, and long familiar through the memoirs of the heroine. But one does not the memoirs of the heroine. But one does not easily three of such narratives, and it is pleasant to have the old times brought before us anew in a bright and lively style. Mr. Hutchtasen, it will mountaineers have been driven from their old homes. a lieutenant-colonelcy, and put in command of taken to farming, but we gather that the majority ruin, and scarcely camble of bather. ruin, and scarcely capable of being put in a state of defence, even though the means of attack were of the poorest. The place, however, was of great importance to the Parliament, and had to be fortifled and held to the last; and Colonel Hutchinson

put all his energies into the task set before him. Mrs. Hutchinson gives a full description of the state of the castle when her husband took charge munitions and provisions. She says: "t was as ill provided as fortified, there being but ten barrels of powder, eleven hundred and fifty pounds of butter and as much choose, eleven quarters of bread corn, seven beeves, two hundred and fourteen fittelies of bacon, five hundred and sixty fishes and fifteen hogsheads of beer." A good deal of beer for a very moderate quantity of bread, if the relative proportions do not reach Sir John Pal-staff's account; Colonel Hutchipson, however, gradually drew in contributions from the town. and made his defence good. The castle was several Hutchinson was active in attending to the wounded, making no distinction between friend and foe. Perhaps the feelings of the leyal wife count for something in Mrs. Hutchinson's belief that Cromwell, while always on friendly and even cordial terms with the colonel, refused him promotion in the army because he feared his independent spirit and his frankness of utterance. Hutchin-

after the Restoration, though not without some difficulty. Mrs. Hutchinson took her full share in all the exciting events of her time, and notwithstanding all the turmoil, both she and her husband came out of the struggle poorer only in money, which they had freely bestowed upon the cause of national freedom.

The last sketch in the volume is of the lovely natured Mrs. Godolphin, the friend and almost the adopted daughter of John Evelyn, who never had cause of grievance against her but once, and that was when she got married without confiding her intention to him; and her retisence on this occasion is the odder inasmuch as she could never afterward give a reason for it. Mrs. Godolphin was a singularly lovable and noble woman, but her life has been written so often that everybody knows all about her. Miss Johnstone has done her work very well, and her book will no doubt be appre-

## THE BLUE-GRASS REGION.

APPRECIATIONS OF KENTUCKY AND HER PEOPLE.

THE BLUE-GRASS REGION OF KENTUCKY, AND OTHER KENTUCKY ARTICLES. By James Land Allen. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 322. Harper & Brothers.

In the series of articles which form this book the author has evidently performed a labor of love, but in describing and extelling the Blue Grass region he has abstained from any approach to fulsome paneggric, and has reckoned drawbacks and defects no less than advantages and virtues. And in particular he does not blink the fact that the conditions which have surrounded Kentucky life with a picturesqueness seldom to be found elsewhere to the same extent are not compatible with the maintenance of that urgent spirit which may be defined. In the slang of the West, as "keeping up with the procession. Kentucky has been blessed with a fine soil and climate and opulent mineral resources. The limestone formations, producing the best of grass, water and cereals, has put forth men and animals of exceptionally good quality in physique and stamina. But the Anglo-Saxop stock, transplanted under conditions so favorable, has somehow falled to develop, until quite recently, the qualities of energy and push which are recognized as peculiar to the race almost everywhere.

Of course slavery has been largely responsible for this in the past. The patriarchal system is unfavor-able to rapid progress in commerce and industry. What it unturnily tends to perpetuate is an aristocratic contempt for manual labor; an unthrifty indifference to money; a disposition toward luxury and open-air sports. A community composed from the beginning almost of large land owners scattered thinly over an extensive territory, the agricultural life became of necessity the dominent one in the filme-Grass region. This life, as lived by the planters and in some measure also as lived by the slaves was, owing to climatic conditions, far pleasanter and less tollsome than that of the States farther South. In his article entitled "Uncle Tom at Mr. Allen has drawn a picture, doubtle never exhausting. No such heavy mortality as existed in the Carolinas, for example, was found there. And as the slaves were healthy and long lived, there naturally grew up between them and their masters relastates where grinding toll made life harsh and gloomy, and disease rapidly thinned out the negro population, and caused a constant current of substitution to flow

through It. nent in Kentucky, however, has always been the nonataineers of the Cumberland. An unlucky element that could be done to save his life. She want can the lengthess of the mountains have to do with obtained admittance to both the King and his brother, but could make no impression upon surely the expressions are infelicious when employed hesitate to murder women and children while carrying on their rangularry quarrels. Of vigor, as understood man might be enabled to finish some papers he work to the women. In this they resemble all savages, was engaged in composing. The farewell be their agricultural exertions are confined to the raising

among them for nearly a century. As a rule they are abjectly poor. With many, as Mr. Allen says, the chief problem of the year is the raising of two or three dollars wherewith to pay the county tax-the Sinte tax they do not attempt to pay. Education in the Cumberlands is almost entirely neglected, and the prevalling ignorance is far denser than existed two hundred years ago in most other parts of the country. Now, concerning the origin of these mountainers there seems to be little definite known. They are supposed to be for the most part descended from hunters and trappers. but even if this is true it does not account for their deeply interesting subject has thus far hit upon an even plausible explanation of their state. That a community of Anglo-Saxon stock should learn absointely nothing in a hundred years; should exhibit no progressive instinct; should remain stagmant in all things; should shrink from civilization instead of courting it; is a state of affairs inviting a far more thorough and serious inquest than has been applied

gent"; but the pictorial representation he gives of "natives to be "suggests a positive lack of intelligence as do their modes of life. The following shetch of som of their characteristics goes for to confirm the most pessimistic impression: "Leaving out of consideration the few instances of substantial prosperity, the most of the people are abjectly poor; and they appear to have no sense of accumulation. The main crops raised are cern and potatoes. In the scant gardens will be seen patches of cotton, surghum and tobacco; flax also though less than formerly. Many make insufficien preparation for winter, laying up no meat, but buying work." People who still do their threshing on the ground; who make traces of bark; who plough with an implement little better than a sharpened stick; who grind their grain in the crudest kind of hand-mill; and themselves, can hardly be credited with an average de-

gree of intelligence.

But the time is coming when they will be compelled to let in light upon themselves. The railway It is clear that their end as a community of barbarians approaches more and more rapidly, and that they will simply disappear should they prove unable to adapt themselves to the new environment. For this reason it is the more to be desired that some concerted effort should be made to enrich the annals of folklore with state of the castle when her husband took charge tions and ways of Life generally than has yet been of it, not omitting to give the available list of attempted. Mr. Allen has written very interestingly about these mountaineers of the Cumberland, but his object was to sketch, not to till in the subject. The Cumberland range, inhabited by these strange folk, has been from the first a formidable barrier to travel, softlement and the spread of progress. Mr. Aller thinks, and perhaps he is right, that this mountain mass is responsible to a great extent for the slow development of Kentucky and her failure to participate with her neighbors in the new departure, at least at

the same rate of advance.

But Rentucky has continued faithful to ber first love the horse; and Mongh since the wur the festa aspects of her equine rites have deteriorated, there is times attacked, and after the fighting Mrs. no less enthusiasm centred in the horse than of Hutchinson was active in attending to the old, when the county fulls were points of assemblage for all that was opulent and important in the neigh borhood, and great and costly dinners, served upo silver, were given in the open air by scores of plans ers, whose trained corps of negroes made such dis play and hospitality easy to them. At present there

things would be possible, supposing that Reginald still | son was one of the regicides, but was amnestied | their being in an essentially horsey atmosphere. Not risk, as Mr. Allen sells us, of being thought "disagreeably eccentric." Before the war we have a suspicion that a stranger who could not respond to the local sentiment in this regard might have incurred somewhat more serious risks. But the old truculent days are now over. Everybody got all he fighting they wanted during the war, and county fairs and horse shows and races are no longer occa-sions for the settlement of old feuds and the creation of new ones.

According to Mr. Allen the material future of Kentucky must rest upon two main supports: the horse and the iron trade. The latter, however, will certainly be the more important of the two from a financial point of view, for the tons of conl and iron ore contained in the Cumberiend range are practically without limit, and of the best quality. Capital has already raken measurements, made calculations, purchased great bodies of land, built refironds, dag funnels, put up furnaces, and made large preparations for the development of the fron trade upon a scale commeasurate with the enormous mineral resources which have begun to be opened up. Of course the schemes mentioned cannot be carried out without involving some drawbacks. Thus the magnificent scenery

out here by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The same firm announce an American edition of F. Regamey's "Japan in Art and Industry"; and a collection of "The Fairy Tales of India" prepared by Joseph Jacobs, the editor

In Aldrich's "Unguarded Gates" in the July "Atintic" is a wurning against unrestricted immigration. O Liberty, white Goddess! is it well," he sings:

O Liberty, white Goldess! is it well," he sings:
"To leave the gates unguarded! On thy breast
Fold sorrow's children, soothe the hurts of fate,
Lift the down-traiden, but with hand of steel
stay those who to thy sacred portais come
To waste the gifts of freedom. Have a care
Lest from Lip brow the clustered stars be torn
And trampled in the dust. For so of old
The thronging Goth and Vandal trampled Rome,
And where the temples of the Chesars stood
The lean wolf unmolested made her lair."

author of at least one almost perfect poem, lately died in England. This poem is the "Minnermus in "hurch," which is to be found in the volume called lonica," and which was long ago reprinted in The Tribune. The book was published many years ago and aroused no interest—could not, in fact, be sold. Now copies of that original edition are nearly worth

"The Library Journal" says that "In a certain ity an examination of applicants for employment in following is an exact copy of the answer to a question, ashing for the titles of a work written by ench of the authors muned: John Rushin, The Bread Winners'; William H. Prescott, 'The Prozen Pirate'; Charles Durwin, 'The Missing Link'; Thomas Carlyle, 'Cactar's Column.' The same man is responsible for saying that B. C. stands for the Creation and A. D. for the Deluge."

Why say that "poetry does not sell"? It appears tween Lord and Lady Russell was managed in of just as much of a crop as will suffice to keep soul that Mr. Kipling's new "Barrack-Room Ballads" are may gather the conviction that poetry of a kind that

> Mr. R. L. Garner has confided his much-talked-of ensearches into "The Speech of Monkeys" to a volume which, under that title, will soon be brought ont by C. L. Webster & Co. He is going tack to Africa to continue his experiments.

Mme. Daniel Wilson, the daughter of the late President Grevy, is preparing a political memoir of her father. For many years she was his secretary and he left to her all his private papers. His correspondence is said to be one of great interest.

"Wolfenberg," William Black's new novel, is to be published scrislly in this country in "Harper's Bazar." The current number contains the opening

Mr. H. D. Traill does not apparently believe that it is worth while to "make over" a novel, as Hall Caine has been making over "The Scapegoat." He quotes the younger Dumas's injunction that the dramatic author should not begin his play until he has in imagination constructed the last scene—d You cannot know which route you should take unless you know the point you are making for"; and Traili way of stating a truth which it is the too common habit of the latter-day novelist-especially when very young-to express in the language of the inspired reatur whose characters take the pen from his hand and write,' and who would have you believe that he is the helpless slave of his own puppets, for all that he visibly pulls their wires himself.

"Our most competent writers of fiction know better than to talk, or pay attention to, inflated nonsense of this kind. They do not pretend that the pathetic third volume deaths of their Daisles, or the nappy marriages of their Jennies and Jessamies, are as sternly preordained as the crime and punishment of Oedipus, or the calamities of the House of Atrens. Suit, there is a right and a wrong 'ending' to every properly constructed story. A natural and logical, and a perverse and illogical, untying of every properly tied dramatic knot, and Mr. Caine must know this as well as anybody. If, indeed, he has only rewritten his novel with a view to perfecting its workmanship, then, of course, we can only wish him luck. But we cannot help asking ourselves, How often have 'improvements' of this kind really improved p'

It is a question whether pagen hermitages offer the proper surroundings to a man of genius. With-Robert Louis Stevenson's latest writings we may at least hazard the remark that they will hardly mpel other writers of subtle and graceful gifts to take up a residence on Pacific Islets.

In the new number of "Poet-Lore" will be found xtracts from several unpublished letters of Shelley to Elizabeth Hitchener-the "Portia" of his early liking and the "Brown Demon" of his later detestation. One of these extracts-from a letter dated July, 1811-contains some of the young poet's social ideas. "What I contend for is this," he says. "Were I a morel legislator, I would propose to my followers that they should arrive at the perfection of morality. Equality is matural: at least, many evils totally inconsistent with a state which symbolizes with Nature prevail in every system of inequality. I will assume the point. Therefore, even although it be your opinion, or my epinion, that equality is maxisinable except by a purcel of pers, or beans, still political virtue is to be estimated in proportion as it approximates to this ideal point of perfection, however unartainable. But what can be worse than the present aristocratical system? Here are, in England, 10.000,000, only 500,000 of whom live in a state of sase : blue rest earn their Evelthood with toll and care. resources of various degrees of immensity, were to permit these resources to be resolved into their eriginal stock (that is, entirely to destroy it), if cach carned his own living (which I do not see is is less luxury and estentation, but the position of the Blue-Grass idel records what it was. Kentucky at all incompatible with the height of intellectual men, weman and calcium live, move and have refinement), then I affirm that each would be happy

and contented-that crime and the temptation to crime would scarcely exist.—But this paradise is all visionary.'—Why is it visionary? Have you fried? The first inventor of a plough doubtless was looked upon as a mad innovator be who altered it from its original absurd form doubtless had to contend with great prejudices in its disfavor. But it is not worth while that (although it may not be certain) the remaining 9,500,000 victims to its infringement (should) make some exertion in favor of a system evidently founded on the first principles of natural justice? If two children were placed together in a desert island, and they found some scarce fruit, would not justice dictate an equal division! If this is capable,-if these children are men, families-i not justice capable of the same extension and multiplication? Is it not the same? Are not its decrees invariable? and, for the sake of his earth-formed schemes, has the politician a right to infringe upon that which itself constitutes all right and wrong Surely not."

### DEATH WEEK.

STRANGE RITES IN RURAL RUSSIA.

mentioned cannot be carried out without involving some drawbacks. Thus the magnificent scenery of Cumberland Gap, and perhaps of the range altogether, must suffer from the introduction of those industrial approcesses which, while producting wealth and ed processes which, while producting wealth and edupts to uniform the content of the co After appeasing the Water-Spirit, the House-Spirit, the "Domovol," calls for a sacrifice. He awakes on the night of March 25, and will only wait three days far his offering. So on returning from the river-side, the villagers prepare a suitable gift for him. They take a fat black pig, kill it, and cut it into as many pieces at there are residents in the piace. Each resident receives one piece which he straightway builes under the doorstep at the entrance to his house. In ton parts, it is said, the country-folk bury a few eggs beneath the threshold of the dwelling to propitiate the "Domovol."

a fat black pig, kill it, and cut it into as many pieces as there are residents in the piace. Each resident receives one piece which he straightway buries under the doorstep at the entrance to his house. In toma parts, it is said, the country-folk bury a few eggs beneath the threshold of the dwelling to propitiate the "Domovol."

On the following day the ceremony known as the "Lyalya" takes place. The "Lyalya" is not the Goddess of spring, but a personification of the season. The ceremony of the day is known as the "Lyalyada", and only young unmarried girls take part in it. They all meet in a field outside the village, and select one who is to be the "Lyalya." She is attired in a white robe, with a crown of green stuff on her head, and a staff, decorated with green leaves, in her hands. Barfooted the girls then perambulate the village, headed by the "Lyalya." Stopping at certain dwelling settled upon beforehand. At the first of the houses where a halt is made, a cake prepared over-night is handed to the party. At the next, they receive a basket containing as many eggs as there are girls is the procession, and one over. At the third house they get a measure of mixed grain. Preceded still by the "Lyalya," they leave the village, stopping to the village, each one dipping her hand into the grain the sure and strewing a few of the seeds over the ground. This is supposed to ensure fertility in the coming year. When all the fields have been traversed, the procession returns to the spot whence a start was made; the cake and eags are divided, and each grain the sure of the procession returns to the spot whence a start was made; the ones necessare as call sorts of misfortune. The egg and cake must had coming year. When all the fields have been traversed, the procession returns to the spot whence a start was made; the ones necessare the seeds over the ground. This is supposed to ensure fertility in the coming year. When all the fields have been the coming year. When all the fields have been the coming the morning, it is a

All is now ready for the ceremony of driving

out Death, from which the week derives its designation. Early in the morning the residents of the villages, men, women, and children, meet in the market-place. Some bring packages of rag and old clothes, others bundles of straw, long sticks, and cross-places. Out of these, three or four expert hands accussioned to the work manufacture a dummy faure resembling an old woman. The face is pained and made as lidenous as possible. This is the figure of Death—Boach, according to sinvoic mythology, being sole, which is given the persent who is desained out in what is left, of the true persent who is desained out in what is left, of the true persent who is desained out in what is left, of the true persent who is desained out in what is left, of the true persent who is desained out in what is left, of the true persent who is desained out in what is left, of the true persent who is desained to the construction of the figure. The mon then are themselves with whips and whistles, but me and elitize bring he hand the procession starks, the penant carrying the image of Death in front. Of the start at a smart run, the villagers after him, cracking their whips, blowing iffer whistles, burging on the poils and poils. On the party as shouting and both and the procession, calling out as they march along: "We have deven on the thing of the research of the flow of the procession, calling out as they march along: "We have deven on the party their return in one-city procession, calling out as they march along: "We have deven on the call and bring in the New Year." In many parks of Russia the villagers accoment themselves with giving the figure of Death and the house is a limit to throw the figure of vecanity of the villagers happen to have a grievance against fly neighboring hamile they carry the figure of Death and the carry the figure of Death and the carry is death of the party the figure of the company is carried back to those who that within their boundaries of the lates and leave the poils and party and the party the figure of th

From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The ground on which is erected Zion's new Luthers Church, Manheim, Penn., was donated to the coagation 120 years ago, for the consideration of annual payment of one red rose, by Baron Herr William Seigel, who founded Manheim and was first glass and fron manufacturer of any note in United States. He demanded the rose twice, and paid. The baron died poor and filled an annual course.